

THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF HALTWHISTLE



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

J. M. McEWAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

and of

THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

For the Year 1966

STAFF :

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W. FORSTER, M.A.P.H.I.	{ <i>Public Health Inspector.</i>
Mrs. E. THOMPSON - - -	<i>Clerk Typist</i>

*To the Chairman and Members of the Rural District Council
of Haltwhistle :*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1966.

The social conditions of the District have shown little change during the year, but a pattern of development is becoming apparent. While the area as a whole is losing population there is also a redistribution of population from the countryside to the town. The rural villages are small and have poor communications, and offer little employment except farming and forestry. There are difficulties in the way of providing new houses and modern sanitation, but the improvement of existing houses is encouraged and it is hoped in time to improve the amenities. While it is not to be expected that the villages will expand it is hoped that they will continue with smaller populations. The town of Haltwhistle, on the other hand, is increasing in size and population and with its good communications and diversity of employment, it is becoming accepted as the natural centre of growth. This is recognised by the Council, who have undertaken a large housing development there and plan to attract further industry to the town. If the town is prosperous the whole Rural District will benefit from its prosperity. The Council consider that two things are essential — that the Haltwhistle/Alston railway line must be kept open and that alternative employment must be available when Bardon Mill Colliery closes. To meet the latter need they have purchased land in Haltwhistle for an advance factory and are hopeful that they will attract new industry as they have done on a previous occasion. It is also planned to publicise more widely the natural attractions and historic interests of the District, through which runs the Roman Wall.

The vital statistics show no special features. The mid-year population was estimated at 6,730, a reduction of 70 from 1965, although there was a natural increase in 20 of births over deaths. The birth and death rate are satisfactorily close to the national average. There were no infant deaths in 1965 while there were 3 in 1966, but no great significance can be attached to one year in isolation, and 2 of the deaths in infancy were due to prematurity. More than half the total deaths occurred at over 75 years, the oldest group tabulated, and as in previous years the most frequent causes of death were degenerative diseases of the heart and circulation.

The major infectious diseases were again absent, and scarlet fever and measles accounted for almost all the notifications. There were 58 cases of scarlet fever, mild in nature and sporadic in distribution and widespread throughout the district. Only one case of tuberculosis was notified, of pulmonary disease in an elderly male, and there were no deaths. Immunisation against diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough and poliomyelitis continues to be at a very high level, and reflects credit on the parents, the doctors and the health visitor.

No houses were completed by the Council during 1966, but 88 were under construction. This large development will do much to relieve the housing need in Haltwhistle itself, and a proportion will go by the decision of the Council to council house tenants in Halton-Lea-Gate. The four bungalows for old people built through the generosity of Mrs. M. A. Smith were completed and handed over to the Council in June. The statistics given later in the Report show a satisfactory number and diversity of houses in the district, and no further development is planned. The system of improvement grants has done much to help the housing situation by keeping in occupation older houses which could not easily be replaced and the figure of 376 houses so modernised gives cause for satisfaction.

The district is widely served with mains water by Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company as statutory water undertakers, and while a little difficulty has been experienced with the Birch Trees Supply which is manually chlorinated, the quality and quantity can be considered satisfactory. The company undertake regular water sampling, taking necessary action if the result is below the required standard, and make the results available to the Health Department. Private and proposed supplies remain the responsibility of the Council, and advice on measures to improve the supply is given where necessary. No chemical analysis was made during the year, but it is known that plumbic solvency is not a problem and that the fluoride content is low at 0.1 to 0.2 parts per million. The figures required of the number of houses, in parishes, supplied by water direct from the mains is contained in the Public Health Inspector's part of the Report.

The proposed sewerage and sewage disposal schemes for the Bardon Mill and Henshaw area and the Greenhead and Bankfoot area, while approved by the Ministry, were deferred

until the financial restrictions on capital works were removed. The Council however were able to make out a satisfactory case on health grounds why they should be regarded as urgent, and approval to proceed was given. These new schemes will be of great benefit to the areas concerned, and further improvements of property are to be expected. Next to follow are extensions to the works at Haltwhistle and minor schemes for the smaller communities. Elsewhere facilities for sewage disposal are adequate.

Certain information is required under the Food and Drugs Act 1955. Routine milk sampling has been undertaken by the County Health Department for the presence of tuberculosis and brucellosis, and one sample from a farm in the district was found to be positive for brucella abortus. Investigations of individual cows showed one to be infected, and it was withdrawn from the herd. Details of milk sampling and of food premises will be found in the Public Health Inspectors section of the Report. There is no egg pasteurisation plant in the district, nor are poultry processed here.

There is one Common Lodging House in Haltwhistle. It is visited regularly and the standards required are maintained.

The Public Health Inspector's part of the Report is fuller than in past years, and it gives a comprehensive picture of the work of the Health Department as well as much useful information. I feel that Mr. Forster is to be commended on its production.

The Chairman and Members of the Health Committee continue to take an active interest in the work of the Department, and my thanks are due to them and to the Clerk and other Officers. The staff of the Health Department continue to give efficient service.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

J. M. McEWAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

The area of the Haltwhistle Rural District is 96,333 acres. The only town is Haltwhistle, the other centres of population being villages.

The estimated population for 1966 is 6,730, which is a decrease of 70 from 1965.

The number of inhabited houses on 31st December, 1966, was 2,291.

The rateable value at 31st March, 1966, is £168,404.

The sum represented by a penny rate at 31st March, 1966, is £651 5s. 9d.

The following is a list of persons employed in various industries in the district.

	<i>Males and Females over 15 years of age</i>
Mining and Quarrying	420
Paint, Varnish, Chemical and other Manufactures	690
Distributive Trades	280
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing ..	200
National and Local Government ..	75
Professional Services	210
Building Trades	196
Transport and Garages	160
Miscellaneous	105

VITAL STATISTICS

Population

The population of the Haltwhistle Rural District estimated at 30th June, 1966, was 6,730.

Birth Rate

There were 94 live births, giving a birth rate of 16.05 per 1,000 population when the comparability factor is applied. It compares with 17.7 per 1,000 population for all England and Wales.

Of the total of 94 live births, none were illegitimate. There was 1 still-birth, compared with 2 in 1965.

Infantile Mortality

There were 3 deaths of infants under one year. The infant mortality rate is 31.91 per 1,000 live births, the rate for England and Wales being 19.0 per 1,000.

General Death Rate

A total of 74 deaths occurred during 1966, a decrease of 31 on 1965. When the comparability factor is applied, the death rate is 10.22 per 1,000 population. The figure for all England and Wales is 11.7 per 1,000.

3 deaths were due to Cancer, compared with 15 in 1965.

VITAL STATISTICS SUMMARY

Live Births :

Number	..	..	..	..	..	..	94
Corrected Rate per 1,000 population	..	..					16.05
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births							Nil

Stillbirths :

Number	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	..	..					10.53
Total Live and Still Births	..	..	..	..			95
Infant Deaths (deaths under one year)	..	..					3

Infant Mortality Rates :

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	..						31.91
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	..	..	..	..	..	..	31.91
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	..	..	..	..			21.27
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	..	..	..				21.27
Perinatal Mortality Rate (still-births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)	..	..	..	..	..	..	31.58
Maternal Mortality (including abortion) :							
Number of deaths	..	..	..	..	..		Nil
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	..	..					Nil

HEALTH SERVICES

Hospitals

(a) HALTWHISTLE WAR MEMORIAL HOSPITAL.

Surgeon :	Mr. C. I. Raeburn, F.R.C.S. (Ed.)
Gynaecologist :	Mr. D. T. Barber, F.R.C.S.
Physician :	Dr. J. B. Ryder.
Matron :	Miss E. M. Armstrong.

This hospital, which includes a modern Maternity Wing, is under the Management of the Hexham and District Management Committee.

The Local House Committee—Chairman, Mr. G. E. Dent, meets on the first Friday of alternate months.

(i) *X-Ray Department.*

X-Ray examinations are carried out Thursdays at 1-30 p.m.

Consultant Radiologist : Dr. Walker.

(ii) *Gynaecologist Out-Patient Department.*

First Tuesday every month at 11-30 a.m.

(iii) *Surgical Out-Patient Department.*

Wednesdays, 12 noon.

(iv) *Medical Out-Patient Department.*

Alternate Tuesdays, 10 a.m.

(b) HEXHAM GENERAL HOSPITAL.

Accommodation at this hospital is available for patients from this district. A number of medical cases for detailed investigation and some major emergency surgical cases are referred there and such special facilities as Physiotherapy are available.

(c) CARLISLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL.

WALKERGATE INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL,
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE.

Cases of infectious disease requiring In-patient treatment are accommodated at the above hospitals.

Tuberculosis Service

(a) CHEST CLINICS

Hexham General Hospital — Tuesdays from 9 a.m.
Tuberculosis Officer—Frederic L. Wollaston, M.R.C.S.

Tuesday.. .. 2—4 p.m.

Friday 5—6-30 p.m.

INSTITUTIONAL TREATMENT.

(i) *Wooley Sanatorium.*

The standard of treatment at this hospital continues to be exceptionally high, and there is now no waiting list for admission.

(ii) *Stannington Sanatorium.*

25 Children's beds are available.

Midwifery Service

(a) *Ante-Natal Care*

Two clinics per month are held at the Haltwhistle Clinic by the local doctors.

(b) *Haltwhistle Hospital*

The majority of the expectant mothers in the district are confined in the Haltwhistle Hospital.

The services of a visiting Gynaecologist, together with his staff, have proved of great assistance and are also available for emergency work.

Bowmer Bank Hostel, Morpeth, cares for unmarried expectant mothers.

(c) *Doniciliary Service*

Two midwives reside at 1 Bridge Street, Haltwhistle (Telephone 368).

Two cars are provided for the use of the Nurses in attending cases in this extensive district.

Ambulance Service

The Ambulance service is maintained and run by the members of the St. John's Ambulance Division, for the Northumberland County Council, and members of the Nursing Division act as attendants when required.

During the year 1966, 5,772 cases were handled, made up as follows :—

Cases Transported by Ambulance :

Road Accidents..	.. 16	Mileage Covered	.. 544
Other Accidents	.. 7	Mileage Covered	.. 315
Invalids	.. 347	Mileage Covered	.. 6,157
	370		7,016
<i>Car Sitting Cases</i>	.. 5,402	Mileage Covered	.. 59,722
Total Cases	.. 5,772	Total Mileage..	.. 66,738

Registrar of Births, Marriages and Deaths

Registrar : Mrs. F. Robinson.

Office : C.W.S. Building, Main Street,
Haltwhistle.

Hours : Mondays, Wednesdays, Saturdays :—
11 a.m. to 12 noon.
Thursdays :— 2—3 p.m.

TABLE I

The following table shows the principal vital mortality rates for the year 1956-66.

YEAR	Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	General Death Rate per 1,000 Living	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births	Death Rate from Respiratory T.B. per 1,000 Living
1956	14.27	13.20	30	.13
1957	15.20	12.71	28.57	.00
1958	14.22	10.18	9.51	.00
1959	13.66	12.73	19.42	.00
1960	11.26	13.87	12.19	.00
1961	15.81	13.5	18.35	.00
1962	14.45	13.87	40.4	.00
1963	14.76	13.19	39.6	.68
1964	15.75	13.01	42.55	.68
1965	16.06	14.35	.00	.00
1966	16.05	10.22	31.91	.00

TABLE II.
INFECTIOUS DISEASE

DISEASE	YEAR									
	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966
Small Pox ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Scarlet Fever ..	7	13	25	2	3	1	21	5	15	58
Whooping Cough ..	40	2	—	1	—	—	1	32	—	—
Diphtheria ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	1
Measles ..	199	1	8	12	266	—	79	112	96	15
Pneumonia ..	11	—	—	5	2	1	21	8	4	3
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—
TOTALS ..	257	18	34	20	271	2	126	158	118	77

TABLE III.
TUBERCULOSIS.

Age. Periods	NEW NOTIFICATIONS						DEATHS					
	Respiratory			Non-Respiratory			Respiratory			Non-Respiratory		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—44	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—64	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 +	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

TABLE IV.
NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS.

YEAR	Registered Births					Illegitimate Births (included in Registered Births)				
	Live Births		Still Births		Total	Live Births		Still Births		Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.	
1956	52	46	2	—	100	—	3	—	—	3
1957	51	54	2	1	108	2	3	—	—	5
1958	51	53	1	2	107	1	2	—	—	3
1959	58	45	—	1	104	—	2	—	1	3
1960	42	40	1	2	85	1	3	—	1	5
1961	61	48	1	1	111	4	1	—	—	5
1962	45	54	2	1	102	1	1	—	—	2
1963	61	40	1	—	102	—	3	—	—	3
1964	55	39	1	1	96	2	4	—	—	6
1965	47	48	1	1	97	3	1	—	—	4
1966	57	37	—	1	95	—	—	—	—	—

TABLE V.
INFANT DEATHS

Deaths of Infants Under 1 year of age.			Deaths of Infants Under 4 weeks of age		
	M.	F.		M.	F.
Legitimate ..	2	1	Legitimate ..	2	—
Illegitimate	—	—	Illegitimate	—	—
	2	1		2	—

TABLE VI
CAUSES OF INFANT DEATHS

		M.	F.	Total	
Prematurity ..		2	—	2	Under 1 week
Bronchitis ..		—	1	1	Under 1 year
		2	1	3	

TABLE VI.
ANALYSIS OF DEATHS BY CAUSES

CAUSES OF DEATH				1962		1963		1964		1965		1966	
				M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory ... ..	...	...	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2. Tuberculosis, other ... ..	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic Disease ... ..	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria ... ..	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough ... ..	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal Infections ... ..	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis ... ..	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8. Measles ... ..	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9. Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10. Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach ... ..	...	...	...	1	—	—	1	3	—	2	1	—	—
11. Malignant Neoplasm, Lung Bronchus...	...	...	...	5	—	6	1	2	—	1	1	—	—
12. Malignant Neoplasm, Breast ... ..	...	...	...	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	2	—	—
13. Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus ... ..	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Neoplasms ... ..	...	...	...	1	7	4	3	4	—	4	3	1	2
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia ... ..	...	...	...	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
16. Diabetes ... ..	...	...	...	—	—	—	2	1	1	—	4	—	—
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ...	...	...	...	9	12	4	13	7	12	11	16	6	6
18. Coronary Disease, Angina ... ..	...	...	...	10	9	15	9	9	7	14	6	12	5
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease ... ..	...	...	...	—	1	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—
20. Other Heart Disease ... ..	...	...	...	8	3	5	3	3	9	3	6	8	12
21. Other Circulatory Disease ... ..	...	...	...	1	2	1	6	6	1	5	4	5	2
22. Influenza ... ..	...	...	...	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
23. Pneumonia ... ..	...	...	...	—	1	1	—	1	2	2	1	1	2
24. Bronchitis ... ..	...	...	...	—	—	2	1	1	2	7	1	1	4
25. Other Diseases of Respiratory System...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ... ..	...	...	...	3	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ... ..	...	...	...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis ... ..	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate ... ..	...	...	...	2	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
30. Pregnancy, Child Birth, Abortion ... ..	...	...	...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
31. Congenital Malformations ... ..	...	...	...	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
32. Other Defined and ill-defined disease ...	...	...	...	3	4	2	6	3	5	1	5	2	—
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents ... ..	...	...	...	1	—	1	—	2	1	1	—	1	—
34. All other Accidents ... ..	...	...	...	3	4	—	1	1	2	1	—	—	1
35. Suicide ... ..	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	1	—
36. Homicide and Operations of War ... ..	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
ALL CAUSES ... ..	...	...	...	52	46	48	48	48	47	53	52	39	35

TABLE VII
AGES AT DEATH

				M.	F.	Total
Under 4 weeks .. ..	..	..	..	2	—	2
4 weeks and under 1 year .. ..	..	..	..	—	1	1
1 — 4 years .. ..	..	..	..	—	—	—
5 — 14 „ .. ..	..	..	..	—	—	—
15 — 24 „ .. ..	..	..	..	—	—	—
25 — 34 „ .. ..	..	..	..	—	—	—
35 — 44 „ .. ..	..	..	..	—	1	1
45 — 54 „ .. ..	..	..	..	—	1	1
55 — 64 „ .. ..	..	..	..	6	5	11
65 — 74 .. ..	..	..	..	10	7	17
75 and over .. ..	..	..	..	21	20	41
				39	35	74

R E P O R T
of the
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
For the Year Ended 31st December, 1966

W. FORSTER,
M.A.P.H.I.

Duties :
Public Health.
Housing.
Meat and Foods
Inspection.
Council House
Allocation.
Refuse Collection
and Disposal.

WATER SUPPLY

During the year, in conjunction with the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company, 88 samples of water were taken for bacteriological examination, 84 from public supplies and 4 from private sources.

As will be seen from the table below, 6 samples taken in Haltwhistle fell below the accepted standard. These samples were all from the Birch Trees supply, this supply is permanently chlorinated but as it is a small supply and chlorinated manually, it is difficult to strike a balance between over and under chlorination due to the considerable variation in flow resulting from heavy rainfall. Whenever an unsatisfactory sample result is received the Company increase the chlorination and take check samples.

Including new houses 20 additional properties were connected to public mains during the year.

Public Supplies

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF WATER SAMPLES

	Number Satisfactory	Number Unsatis- factory	No. of Samples Taken
Haltwhistle.. ..	29	6	35
Bardon Mill	5	—	5
Unthank	1	—	1
Melkridge	5	—	5
Henshaw	3	—	3
Gilsland	3	—	3
Greenhead	4	—	4
Coanwood	2	—	2
Slaggyford	13	—	13
Halton-Lea-Gate	12	1	13
	77	7	84

Private and Proposed Supplies

4 samples were taken, the results of which are given below.

	Number of Samples Taken		Number Satisfactory		Number Unsatisfactory		Total Samples Taken Total
	Bact.	Chem	Bact.	Chem	Bact.	Chem	
Kingswood Farm, Whitfield ..	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Whitfield Village ..	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Castle Nook Cottage, Kirkhaugh ..	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
High Birkshaw, Bardon Mill ..	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
	4	—	2	—	2	—	4

Details of Houses and Population Supplied from Public Mains

Parish	No. of Houses Direct from Mains	Estimated Population	No. of Houses Served by Standpipes	Estimated Population
Bardon Mill ..	97	262	6	17
Coanwood ..	49	157	6	19
Featherstone ..	43	129	8	24
Greenhead ..	64	182	9	26
Haltwhistle ..	1,209	3,650	30	93
Hartleyburn ..	72	223	19	59
Henshaw ..	150	433	24	70
Melkridge ..	47	157	11	36
Plenmeller with Whitfield ..	27	86	2	6
Slaggyford ..	66	208	1	3
Thirlwall ..	140	455	6	19
	1,964	5,942	122	372

Sources closed or discontinued — No. of Houses —

New Service provided :—

(a) By Local Authority .. Nil. No. of Houses Nil.
 (b) By Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company .. 20 No. of Houses 20
 (c) By Private Owner .. — No. of Houses —

HOUSING

Council House Building

No council houses were completed during the year, but four Aged Persons Bungalows in Park Road, Haltwhistle, the gift of Mrs. M. A. Smith were completed in June and handed over to the Council.

On April 4th work was commenced on the erection of 88 houses at Flowers Close and Comb Hill, Haltwhistle. Most satisfactory progress was maintained during the year and it is anticipated that the first of these houses will be ready for occupation by the early part of next year.

New Houses Completed During the Year

New Houses completed during the Year.	With State Assistance.	Unaided.	Total
(a) By Local Authority ..	—	—	—
(b) By any other Housing Authority	—	—	—
(c) By private persons ..	—	8	8
	—	8	8

Houses Under Construction at 31/12/66

	With State Assistance	Unaided	Total
(a) By Local Authority Haltwhistle.. ..	88	—	88
(b) By other persons or bodies	—	2	2
	88	2	90

The total number of houses owned by the Council is now 509, of which 65 are for aged persons. This figure also includes the Warden's Flat at Greenholme Road and the Caretaker's cottage at Greencroft Lodge.

Details of Council Housing Estates are shown in the following table.

Details of Council Housing Estates as at 31/12/66
General Purpose Houses

ESTATE	TYPE OF HOUSE				
	3 BR	2 BR	2 BR Flats Ground Floor	First Floor	Totals
<i>Haltwhistle :</i>					
Greencroft ..	24	—	—	—	24
„ Lodge	—	1	—	—	1
Park Road ..	31	—	—	—	31
Park Avenue ..	24	—	—	—	24
Central Drive..	36	10	—	—	46
Greencroft Ave.	11	—	—	—	11
Fell View ..	—	16	—	—	16
Comb Hill Rd.	14	—	—	—	14
Moorland Ave.	22	—	4	4	30
Newholme Ave.	44	—	4	4	52
Fairholme Ave.	12	—	—	—	12
Capel Avenue..	10	—	8	8	26
Castle Hill ..	2	—	—	—	2
High Row, ..					
Castle Hill ..	—	3	—	—	3
Westlands ..	34	2	—	—	36
Railway Tce. ..	5	—	—	—	5
	269	32	16	16	333
<i>Longbyre :</i>					
Holyrood Place	2	—	—	—	2
<i>Greenhead :</i>					
Milburn Tce. ..	1	4	—	—	5
<i>Coanwood :</i>					
High Ridley ..	8	—	—	—	8
<i>Gilsland :</i>					
Rosehill ..	13	—	—	—	13
<i>Bardon Mill :</i>					
Broadacres ..	36	8	—	—	44
<i>Halton-Lea-Gate</i>					
Leaside ..	30	8	—	—	38
Warden's Flat, Greenholme Rd	—	—	—	1	1
	359	52	16	17	444

Aged Persons Dwellings

ESTATE	Bungalows	D. Smith Bungalows	Ground Floor Flat	First Floor Flat	Totals
Holmeside Cresc.	11	—	—	—	11
Meadow Close ..	12	—	—	—	12
Greenholme Rd.	—	—	16	16	32
D. Smith B'low's	—	10	—	—	10
	23	10	16	16	65

Council House Applications

At the end of the year there were 110 applications for general purpose houses and 57 for aged persons dwellings.

In November the first phase of the allocation of the 88 houses under construction was made, and 46 houses were allocated. Included in this number were 6 houses which were given to key workers (Cascelloid 5 and Smith & Walton 1) and 5 houses which were given to existing tenants at Leaside, Halton-Lea-Gate who had applied for a transfer into Halt-whistle.

The four Douglas Smith Bungalows in Park Road, Halt-whistle, were also allocated and occupied during the year.

As a result of casual vacancies 13 families were rehoused during the year, 11 into general purpose houses and 2 into aged persons dwellings. By exchange of tenancies and transfers a further 9 families were moved into houses more suitable to their needs.

Improvement Grants

DISCRETIONARY GRANTS

Sixteen applications for discretionary grant were received during the year, of the 16 properties concerned 15 were owner occupied and 1 was a rented house. Grants amounting to £4,434 were approved.

During the year works of improvement were completed in respect of 18 properties and grants amounting to £4,504 were passed for payment.

Since the inception of the scheme in 1949 the total number of houses for which grant approval has been given is 298. Of this number 204 were for owner occupied houses and 94 for rented houses.

STANDARD GRANTS

Five applications for standard grant were received during the year, all of which were approved.

During the year standard amenities were provided in 5 properties and grants amounting to £798 were passed for payment.

Since this type of grant was introduced in 1960, 78 houses have been provided with standard amenities, of these 39 were owner occupied and 39 were rented premises, 16 of the latter being council owned.

Summary of Discretionary Grants Approved

Year	Number of Houses	Owner Occupied	Rented	Amount of Grant Approved
1950	6	6	—	£717
1951	7	5	2	1142
1952	11	9	2	2424
1953	12	9	3	2585
1954	23	13	10	4239
1955	25	20	5	6203
1956	23	13	10	5089
1957	26	16	10	6160
1958	27	23	4	7391
1959	10	7	3	1964
1960	20	13	7	4256
1961	17	13	4	4097
1962	20	13	7	4344
1963	16	11	5	3994
1964	22	12	10	4494
1965	17	6	11	4471
1966	16	15	1	4434
	298	204	94	66004

Summary of Standard Grants Completed

Year	No. of houses	L.A.	Private	Owner Occupied	Rented	Basic Amenities provided				
						Bath	Wash hand basin	Hot Water Supply	Internal W.C.	Food Store
1959	2	—	2	1	1	2	2	1	1	2
1960	6	—	6	4	2	3	3	4	4	4
1961	15	2	13	12	3	8	8	7	15	4
1962	22	13	9	7	15	6	21	6	9	5
1963	7	1	6	2	5	4	5	4	6	1
1964	16	—	16	8	8	11	14	12	16	13
1965	5	—	5	4	1	4	4	4	5	4
1966	5	—	5	1	4	4	4	4	5	3
	78	16	62	39	39	42	61	42	61	36

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

There are two licensed slaughterhouses in the district, only one of which has been in regular use.

509 animals were slaughtered during the year, inspection was carried out in all cases and the carcasses were stamped in compliance with the Meat Inspection Regulations 1963. In the absence of the Public Health Inspector, an Inspector from Hexham Rural District has carried out the duties.

427 lbs. of carcase meat and offal were condemned as unfit for human consumption during the year, and the figures in the accompanying tables give details of the meat condemned. It is worthy of note that in the 92 bovine carcasses and offals inspected there was no evidence of tuberculosis or cysticercus bovis.

Apart from the 95 lbs. of meat condemned for bruising, all from one animal following injury, the most common cause for condemnation was cirrhosis of liver, which accounted for 58% of the total weight of meat and offal condemned.

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle exclud'g Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed	92	—	—	318	99
Number Inspected	92	—	—	318	99
<i>All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci :</i>					
Whole Carcases condemned ..	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	19	—	—	47	1
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis or cysticerci	20.65	—	—	14.78	1.01
<i>Tuberculosis Only :</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned ..	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number in spected affected with tuber- culosis	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Cysticercosis :</i>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration ..	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally con- demned	—	—	—	—	—

Summary of Carcase Meat and Offals Condemned

	Tuberculosis	Cysticercus Bovis	Other Diseases and Conditions	Total
Cattle (ex- (excluding Cows) ..	—	—	342 lbs.	342 lbs.
Cows ..	—	—	—	—
Sheep and Lambs ..	—	—	82 lbs.	82 lbs.
Pigs ..	—	—	3 lbs.	3 lbs.
TOTAL ..	—	—	427 lbs.	427 lbs.

Disease or Condition				Weight of Meat Condemned Lbs.
Cirrhosis	..	..	.	247
Bruising	..	..	..	95
Parasites	..	..	..	85
TOTAL	..	..	..	427

The Meat Inspection (Amendment) Regulations 1966

These regulations which came into operation on 30th September 1966, are designed to provide further measures to bring about the full inspection of all home killed meat before it leaves the slaughterhouse.

The main provisions are to :—

- (a) empower local authorities (after consultation with the occupiers and users of private slaughterhouses and subject to a right of appeal by those users to the Ministry) to fix the times at which slaughtering may take place in any private slaughterhouse.
- (b) end on 31st October, 1966, the present provision enabling any meat to be removed from a slaughterhouse if it has not been inspected within a specific period of slaughtering.

In this district there is only one licensed slaughterhouse that owned by Messrs. J. Norman & Son at Portobello, Haltwhistle, which is in general use. The animals are usually killed on a Monday evening and the carcasses inspected on Monday evening or Tuesday morning. This arrangement is quite satisfactory and it was felt that no useful purpose would be served by fixing specific hours of slaughter.

Since the inception of the Meat Inspection Regulations 1963, all meat has been inspected and stamped before removal from the slaughterhouse.

Summary of Unsound Food Surrendered or Seized

Unsound Food	Surrendered		Seized		Legal Proceecings
	No. of Tins	Weight	No. of Tins	Weight	
Tinned Meats ..	20	52 lbs.	—	—	—
Tinned Fruit ..	40	46 lbs.	—	—	—
Tinned Vegetables..	11	8 lbs.	—	—	—
Tinned Fish ..	2	1 lb.	—	—	—
Other Tinned Foods	9	9 lbs.	—	—	—
Mushrooms.. ..	—	18 lbs.	—	—	—

Food Inspection

190 visits were made to food premises during the year. The standard of cleanliness of both premises and personnel is satisfactory.

There are a number of travelling shops and sales vans which visit the various parts of the district and inspections have been carried out from time to time to ensure that hygienic practices were being complied with.

No prosecutions were taken under the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960.

Details of food premises in the area are shown in the following table.

Food Premises

TYPE OF PREMISES					
1.	Hotels and Inns	..	..	..	20
2.	Social Clubs and Public Halls	..			15
3.	School Canteens	..	..	..	11
4.	Works Canteens	..	..	..	3
5.	Butchers	..	..	..	5
6.	General Dealers, Grocers and Confectioners	..	..	..	39
7.	Cafes and Snack Bars	..		..	5
8.	Fish and Chip Shops	..		..	1
9.	Wet Fish Shops	..		..	2
10.	Bakehouses	..	..	..	4
11.	Hospitals and Institutes..			..	2
12.	Ice Cream Manufacturers			..	2
13.	Mineral Water Factory	..		..	1
14.	Chemists	..	..	..	2
TOTAL					112

Ice Cream

Number of Premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955, for the manufacture of Ice Cream	2
Number of Premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955, for the sale of pre-packed Ice Cream.. .. .	27

Milk

Routine samples of milk have been taken regularly throughout the year by the County Health Department from all dealers who sell milk in the area. Samples have also been regularly taken of all milk supplied to schools. 28 samples were taken, 14 of which were of milk supplied to schools. 7 samples failed the methylene blue test (keeping quality).

During the year, a report was received from the Public Health Department of Newcastle that a sample of milk taken from a churn supplied by a producer in this area was stated to be positive for brucella abortus. Enquiries were made at the farm concerned and as a result of investigations carried out, one cow which gave a positive result was withdrawn from the herd.

The Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations

There are no pasteurisation plants in the district.

Poultry Processing Premises

There are no poultry processing plants within the district.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Refuse collection is carried out by direct labour and collections are made from practically all the reasonably accessible properties in the district.

A 12 cubic yard Karrier Bantam, rear loader, with driver and two loaders is used to collect from Haltwhistle and Plenneller, and the outside district is collected with a 7 cubic yard Ford Thames side loader operated by a driver and one loader.

All refuse continues to be disposed of at Plenneller with the exception of one half day's refuse per week which is tipped at Lambley.

The service has operated satisfactorily throughout the year although some difficulty was experienced in recruiting a driver and loader for the country vehicle after the departure of J. Todd in July, and the retirement of G. Little in August, and for a period of some three months it was necessary to employ temporary labour.

Following a fire at the Hadrian Paint Works in June, many loads of partially filled, burnt out paint tins and drums, together with a large amount of brick and rubble were dumped on the Plenneller Tip. In addition to taking up space, this gave the tip a most unsightly appearance, and in the latter part of the year the use of the eastern portion of the tip was discontinued and the area levelled off and covered with a layer of soil.

During the year approximately 2,730 tons of refuse were collected and disposed of.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961**Part I of the Act.****I.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health**

PREMISES (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	5	13	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	36	57	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	5	20	—	—
TOTAL	46	90	—	—

II.—Cases in which DEFECTS were found

PARTICULARS (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of Cleanliness (S. 1.) ...	2	2	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S. 2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S. 3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S. 4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S. 6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7)	—	—	—	—	—
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work) ...	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	3	3	—	1	—

Part VII of the Act**OUTWORK****Sections 110 & 111**

There is one Outworker in the district engaged in embroidery. The premises have been inspected and found to be satisfactory.

At the end of the year the number of factories on the register was 41 made up as follows :—

Joiners and Builders Premises	..	..	8
Garages and Motor Vehicle Repairs	..	..	7
Radio and Television Repairs	..	..	2
Corn Mill	..	..	1
Bakehouses	..	..	4
Ice Cream Manufacturers	..	..	2
Sanitary Pipe Works	..	..	2
Slaughterhouses	..	..	2
Sausage Manufacturers	..	..	4
Concrete Products	..	..	1
Mineral Water Factory	..	..	1
Egg Packing	..	..	1
Saw Mill	..	..	1
Gas Works	..	..	1
Plastic and Chemical Factories	..	..	2
Paint Works	..	..	2
			—
			41
			—

THE OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

This Act which deals with the health, welfare and safety of persons employed in offices, shops and railway premises came into force generally on 1st May, 1964. A number of premises, mainly small shops, are excluded from the Act and the enforcement of the provisions of the Act in specified premises is the responsibility of the Factory Inspectorate and the Mine and Quarry Inspectorate. Fire authorities are responsible for the enforcement of fire precautions where they apply.

A basic survey of the district has been made and it was found that some 183 premises came within the definitions as set out in the Act.

Of these 183 premises, 70 have been registered by the Council. It was considered that 21 premises were such as to require registration by the Factory Inspectorate. The remaining 92 premises were those which were operated either by self employed persons, run as a family business, or were those, where employees did not work for more than 21 hours per week, and did not require registration.

All premises registered have been inspected during the year. No great difficulty has been found generally in securing compliance with the Act, and all occupiers were co-operative. The owners or occupiers of those which did not fully comply with the provisions of the Act have been advised of the work to be carried out to bring them up to standard.

Details of premises and persons employed are shown in the following tables.

Registrations and General Inspections

Class of Premises	No. of Premises Registered During the year	Total No. of Registered Premises at end of year	No. of Registered Premises Inspected During year
(a) Offices	3	14	14
(b) Retail Shops ..	—	44	45
(c) Wholesale Depts. Warehouses ..	—	—	—
(d) Catering Establishments open to the public ..	2	9	9
(e) Staff Canteens ..	1	1	1
(f) Fuel Storage Depot	—	1	1
TOTALS ..	6	69	70

Analysis of Persons Employed in Registered Premises

Class of Workplace	Number of Persons Employed		TOTAL
	Males	Females	
Offices	29	27	56
Retail Shops	65	111	176
Wholesale Depts. Warehouses	—	—	—
Catering Establishments	3	16	19
Staff Canteens	—	9	9
Fuel Storage Depots ..	1	—	1
TOTALS	98	163	261

There was one accident reported during the year. This occurred in a retail shop.

No prosecutions under the Act were taken during the year.

RODENT CONTROL

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949

For the greater part of the year the Council employed the retired rodent operative on a part time basis. This man however resigned from the post in early December and had not been replaced by the end of the year.

The following table gives details of premises which have been inspected and/or treated during the year.

PROPERTIES OTHER THAN SEWERS	Type of Property	
	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
1. Number of properties in district..	2526	343
2. a Total number of properties (including near by premises) inspected following notifications	51	Nil
b Number infested by		
(i) Rats	51	—
(ii) Mice.. .. .	—	—
3. a Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification..	205	10
b Number infected by :		
(i) Rats.. .. .	—	1
(ii) Mice.. .. .	—	—
SEWERS		
4. Were any sewers infested by rats during the year ?	No	

During the period 104 visits were made to Local Authority owned refuse tips and sewage disposal works. One of the refuse tips was subject to intermittent rodent infestation, but was kept under control by regular treatment.

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960

One application was received during the year to station an individual caravan on a site at Plankey Mill. As the applicant already had the benefit of a temporary planning permission which expires in April 1969 a licence was issued until that time.

At present there are five licensed sites in the area. One major site at Blenkinsopp Castle which accommodates 60 caravans, and four sites for individual caravans only.

Public Swimming Baths

There are no public swimming baths in the area.

Common Lodging Houses

Regular inspections have been made of the one common lodging house in the district, and conditions have been found to be generally satisfactory.

Places of Entertainment. Circular 120 Ministry of Health

Number of Cinemas .. 1.

Pet Animals Act 1951

There are no premises in the district registered under this Act.

Noise Abatement Act 1960

No formal action was necessary under this Act.

Clean Air Act 1956

A few complaints, all of a minor nature, were received during the year and were dealt with informally.

No prosecutions were instituted during the year.

Scrap Metal Dealers Act 1964

In the district four persons are registered as Scrap Metal Dealers.

General Administration

A total of 628 personal callers making enquiries and complaints were received by the Public Health Department during the year, all matters arising were dealt with.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S VISITS AND INSPECTIONS

Applications for Council Houses	..	..	..	330
Council Housing (General)	..	..	..	26
House Purchase and Housing Act 1959 (Improvement Grants)	..	..	..	168
Housing General	..	..	..	65
Meat Inspection	..	..	..	48
Food Inspection	..	..	..	6
Food Premises	..	..	..	190
Places of Entertainment and Licensed Premises	..			31
Ice Cream Premises	..	..	..	28
Drainage	..	..	..	12
Factories	..	..	..	90
Infectious Diseases	..	..	..	31
Caravan Sites	..	..	..	27
Nuisances	..	..	..	53
Pest Control	..	..	..	93
Refuse Collection	..	..	..	179
Common Lodging Houses	..	..	..	15
Water Supplies (General)	..	..	..	8
Water Supplies (Sampling)	..	..	..	9
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises	..	..		196
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	65
				<hr/> 1,670 <hr/>

